has been found to range between 8 and 11 percent during the last five years, i.e., 1993 to 1997. The recent tragedy in Delhi due to consumption of adulterated mustard oil was an unusual case of conspiracy which is under detailed investigation by CBI. Meanwhile 84 cases of adulteration of mustard oil in Delhi have been taken up for prosecution under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder.

(c) and (d) The rules made under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act are amended from time to time to make them more effective keeping in view the changing needs. The Act already provides for summary trail and stringent punishment for adulterators. In cases of proven adulteration, the Act provides for a minimum punishment of six months imprisonment which may extend upto three years with fine. However, in cases where such adulteration is found to cause death or bodily harm, as would amount to grievous hurt, within the meaning of Section 320 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), the adulterator shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years, but which may extend to term of life, and with fine which shall not be less than five thousand rupees.

Fund for Homoeopathic Dispensaries

*199. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided funds for setting up of homoeopathic dispensaries and hospitals, as per allocations in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds released and utilised;

(c) the number of homoeopathic dispensaires set-up by these funds which remain non-functional due to non-filling of the existing vacancies for homoeopathic doctors;

(d) by when the vacancies are likely to be filled; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALH AND FAMILY WELFRE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) an amount of Rs. 32.00 lakhs for setting up Homoeopathic dispensaries/units has been allocated in Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) to (e) The expansion of CGHS dispesnaries is dependent on the submission of the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) Report which is under finalisation. After the report is received, proposals to create new posts have to be carried out as per the norms and the annual priorities determined by the SIU and CGHS. Alongside, a requisition has been sent to UPSC for filling up the existing vacant posts. Action to convene Departmental Promotion Committees to fill up the posts of Chief Medical Officer/Senior Medical Officer has been directed to be taken in hand.

Foreign Exchange spent on Import of Sugar

*200. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of foreign exchange opent on account of import of sugar during the last five years;

(b) what is the actual amount of foreign exchange spent particulary from 1.4.98 to 30.9.98 on account of importof sugar;

(c) what has been the total production of sugar during the last five years, year-wise and what is the expected production this year; and

(d) what has been the total consumption of sugar during the last five years year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER

AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (d) The import of sugar into India during the financial years 1994-95 to 1998-99 (upto August, 98) and the value of imports in Rs. Crores is as under:—

Financial Year	Quantity fin tonnes)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1993-94	354	0.45
1994-95	1765440	2245.85
1995-96	150630	215.89
1996-97	2131	3.18
1997-98	330248	443.37
1998-99 (upto Aug. 98)	325840	440.97

SOURCE: DGCI&SS. Calcutta

Import of sugar being on Open General Licence (O.G.L.) with effect from March 1994, various private parties are importing sugar as per their best commercial judgement. The actual amount of foreign exchange spent on account of sugar imports is not available.

(c) The production of sugar during the last five years seasons 1993-94 to 1997-98 in the country was as under:—

Sugar Season (Oct. to Sept.	Production of Sugar (In lakh tonnes)
1993-94	92.24
1994-95	146.43
1995-96	164.29
1996-97	129.05
1997-98	128.27(Prov.)

The production of sugar in the country during the current sugar season 1998-99 is expected to be 150.0 lakh tonnes.

(d) The consumption of sugar in the country during the last five sugar seasons 1993-94 to 1997-98 has been as under:—

Sugar season (Oct. to Sept.)	Internal consumptioon (excluding exports) (in lakh tonnes)(*)
1993-94	111-29
1994-95	119.74
1995-96	131.72
1996-97	137.92
1997-98	139.08 (Prov.)

(*) These figures exclude the sugar imported by private parties under O.G.L. for sale in the open market.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSATARRED QUESTIONS

Evasion of Excise duty by bulk drug companies

1396. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bulk drug Companies are flouting DPCO to evade excise duty by selling bulk drugs at prices much below the DPCO, 1995 rates and are paying lower duties to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have carried out assessment of evasion of excise duty 'by the bulk drug manufacturing Companies, if so, the names of the main Companies involved, with the estimated evasion of excise duty so far;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed against the defaulters/manipulators detected; and

(d) the details regarding follow up action taken against drug Companies Company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Under the provisions of DPCO 1995, the Government fixes only the Maximum Sale Price of the bulk drugs under Price Control. The DPCO 1995 does not